Gas Based Petrochemicals and Gas Cracker Projects in Assam

559. SHRIMATI BIJOYA CHAKRAVARTY: Will the Minister of INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Government of Assam submitted very viable schemes to the Central Government for gas based petrochemicals and gas cracker projects to be set up soon in Assam for giving fillip to a large number of small industries; and

(b) if so, what is the reaction of Government is this regard and by when the schemes are likely to be implemented?

MINISTER OF INDUSTRY (SHRI VENGAL RAO): (a) and (b) There is a proposal for the setting up of a petrochemical complex in Assam. Decision on such proposals are taken based on techno-economic considerations.

Closing down of Industrial Gas Units

560. SHRI RAM AWADHESH SINGH: Will the Minister of INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact the Industrial Gas Units in the country are closing down on the pretext of over production as reported in the Financial Express dated the 29th January, 1989;

(b) if so, whether this is due to over-licensing of capacity or over production or poor off-take due to high prices; and

(c) whether Government have any plans to introduce production norms for such Units?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF INDUSTRIAL DEVELOPMENT IN THE MINISTRY OF INDUSTRY (SHRI M. ARUNACHALAM): (a) No specific instance of Closure of Units manufacturing industrial gases has been reported.

(b) and (c) Do not arise.

Amending the Indian Patent Act, 1970

561. SHRI CHITTA BASU: Will the Minister of INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

(a) whether there is any proposal under Government's consideration to amend the Indian Patent Act, 1970; and

(b) if so, what are the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF INDUSTRIAL DEVELOPMENT IN THE MINISTRY OF INDUSTRY (SHRI M. ARUNACHALAM): (a) No, Sir.

(b) Does not arise.

562. *[Transferred to the 2nd March, 1989]*

563. *[Transferred to the 3rd March, 1989]*

564. *[Transferred to the 7th March, 1989]*

Industrial Policy to open the Industry to Foreign Competition

565. SHRI KAPIL VERMA: Will the Minister of INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

(a) Whether the industrial policy is proposed to be further liberalised to open the industry to foreign competition; and

(b) if so, what are the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF INDUSTRIAL DEVELOPMENT IN THE MINISTRY OF INDUSTRY (SHRI M. ARUNACHALAM): (a) and (b) The basic objectives of the liberalisation measures are to accelerate industrial growth on the one hand and to enhance the efficiency and competitiveness of our industry on the other. These measures have started yielding positive results. Modernisation and technology upgradation, cost reduction, quality improvement and consumer satisfaction are receiving increasing attention on the part of the industry under competitive pressures. Liberalisation of industrial policy and procedures for promoting these objectives